

Real Property Operations and Maintenance

WEED CONTROL AND PLANT GROWTH REGULATION

This publication provides Department of Defense personnel with guidance and technical information on controlling weeds in noncropland, turf, ornamental plantings, and aquatic sites; and using plant growth regulators (PGR). It should be used by both appropriated and nonappropriated fund activities, including US Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units and members. Weed control and plant growth regulation must be managed by well informed professional personnel.

- Submit recommendations for changes through channels to: (a) Department of the Air Force—Air Force Engineering and Services Center (HQ AFESC/DEMM), Tyndall AFB FL 32403-6001; (b) Department of the Army—Director, Engineering and Housing Support Center (CEHSC-FN), Fort Belvoir VA 22060-5580; and Department of the Navy—Naval Facilities Engineering Command [Code 2042 (Natural Resources Branch) and Code 112B (Applied Biology Program)], 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria VA 22232.

Attachment 1 is a glossary of terms used in this publication.

- The use of names of specific commercial products, commodities, or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the military services.

	Paragraph	Page
Chapter 1—General Information		
Section A—Use of Herbicides and Plant Growth Regulators		
Beneficial Uses	1-1	6
Limitations and Requirements	1-2	6
Section B—Biology of Plants		
Annuals and Biennials	1-3	6
Perennial Plants	1-4	7
Section C—Characteristics of Herbicides and Plant Growth Regulators		
Common and Trade Names	1-5	7
Active Chemical Content and Formulations	1-6	7
Modes of Action of Herbicides	1-7	8
Toxicity and Volatility	1-8	9
Section D—Hazards to Non-Target Organisms		
General Information	1-9	9
Operator and Handler	1-10	9
Livestock and Domestic Animals.....	1-11	10
Desirable Plants	1-12	10
Fish and Wildlife	1-13	11
Damage to Equipment.....	1-14	11
Chapter 2—Selecting, Using, Storing, and Disposing of Herbicides		
Section A—Selecting Herbicides		
Analyzing the Situation	2-1	12
Choosing a Formulation	2-2	12

Supersedes AFM 91-19/TM 5-629/NAVFAC MO-314, August 1970. (See signature page for summary of changes.)

No. of Printed Pages: 178

OPR: HQ AFESC/DEMM (Mr H. W. Fordham)

Approved by: HQ USAF/LEE (Mr Gary S. Flora)

Writer-Editor: R. M. Downey

Distribution: See page 65

	Paragraph	Page
Comparing Costs	2-3	12
Effective Herbicides	2-4	13
Section B—Using Herbicides		
A Systematic Approach.....	2-5	13
Application Rates	2-6	14
Effects of Weather	2-7	14
Counteracting Misapplications and Spills.....	2-8	15
Section C—Storing Herbicides		
Flash Points.....	2-9	15
Temperature and Moisture	2-10	16
Facilities and Procedures.....	2-11	16
Section D—Disposing of Herbicides		
Waste Herbicides and Containers	2-12	17
Hazardous Waste Requirements.....	2-13	17

Chapter 3—Vegetation Control in Semi-Improved and Unimproved Grounds

Section A—Methods of Vegetation Control		
Earth Forms and Structures	3-1	18
Land Management Practices.....	3-2	18
Recommended Herbicides.....	3-3	18
Section B—Controlling All Vegetation		
Problems With Bare Soil.....	3-4	19
Using Soil Sterilants.....	3-5	19
Control With Combinations of Herbicides	3-6	20
Section C—Controlling Woody Vegetation		
Practical Considerations	3-7	20
Foliage Sprays.....	3-8	20
Basal Sprays	3-9	21
Cut Surface and Injection Treatments	3-10	21
Soil Treatments.....	3-11	21
Section D—Controlling Vegetation in Special Areas		
Paved Areas.....	3-12	22
Roadsides and Rights-of-Way	3-13	22
Weapons Ranges.....	3-14	22
Railway Areas	3-15	22

Chapter 4—Weed Control in Improved Grounds—Turf and Horticultural Plantings

Section A—Controlling Weeds in Turf		
The Importance of Good Cultural Practices	4-1	24
Adjusting Soil pH.....	4-2	24
Fertilizing Turf	4-3	24
Watering Turf	4-4	24
Mowing Turf	4-5	25
Aerating, Verticutting, and Dethatching.....	4-6	25
Using Selective Herbicides.....	4-7	25
Section B—Renovating Turf and Treating New Seedings		
Spot Infestations and Degraded Turf	4-8	28
Renovating Turf with Herbicides.....	4-9	28
Renovating Turf by Tilling	4-10	29
Controlling Persistent Weeds with Soil Fumigation	4-11	29
Controlling Weeds in New Seedings	4-12	29

	Paragraph	Page
Section C—Controlling Weeds in Horticultural Plantings		
Uses of Herbicides	4-13	30
Selecting Herbicides	4-14	30
Measuring Small Quantities of Herbicides	4-15	30
Section D—Controlling Vegetation Around Structures		
Hazards of Soil Sterilants	4-16	30
Recommended Treatments	4-17	30
 Chapter 5—Plant Growth Regulators (PGR)		
Section A—General Information		
Uses of PGRs	5-1	31
Limitations of PGRs	5-2	31
Areas Where PGRs May be Useful	5-3	31
Available PGRs.....	5-4	31
Section B—Using PGRs		
On-Site Evaluation.....	5-5	32
Complementary Practices	5-6	32
Applying PGRs.....	5-7	33
Step-by-Step Procedures	5-8	34
Diagnosing Common Problems	5-9	34
 Chapter 6—Determining the Cost-Effectiveness of PGR		
Section A—General Discussion		
The Importance of Determining Cost-Effectiveness	6-1	35
Calculating and Documenting Costs of Alternatives	6-2	35
An Illustrative Example.....	6-3	35
Section B—Determining Costs		
Personnel Costs.....	6-4	36
Equipment Costs.....	6-5	36
Cost of Grounds Maintenance Operations.....	6-6	38
Section C—Determining Cost-Effectiveness		
Effectiveness-Rates and Effectiveness-Periods of PGRs	6-7	47
Calculating the Cost-Effectiveness of Using PGRs.....	6-8	48
A Method of Estimating Cost-Effectiveness	6-9	50
 Chapter 7—Controlling Aquatic Weeds		
Section A—General Considerations		
Aquatic Environments.....	7-1	52
Growth Habits of Aquatic Weeds	7-2	52
Section B—Construction Aids		
Depth and Gradient	7-3	52
Bottom Liners	7-4	52
Shaping Banks and Reducing Obstructions	7-5	52
Section C—Management Practices		
Draining and Drying	7-6	52
Fertilizing and Shading	7-7	52
Section D—Mechanical Removal		
Hand Pulling.....	7-8	53
Mowing and Draglining.....	7-9	53
Section E—Biological Control Fish		
Herbivorous Fish	7-10	53
Other Biological Control Agents	7-11	54

	Paragraph	Page
Section F—Using Herbicides		
Recommended Herbicides	7-12	54
Safety Considerations	7-13	54
Chapter 8—Application Equipment		
General Information	8-1	55
Ground Spraying Equipment	8-2	55
Granule Application Equipment	8-3	58
Aquatic Application Equipment.....	8-4	59
Aerial Spraying Equipment.....	8-5	59
Fumigation Equipment	8-6	59
Cleaning Equipment and Preparing It for Storage.....	8-7	60
Chapter 9—Mixing Materials, Calibrating Equipment, and Calculating Aquatic Herbicide Requirements		
Section A—Mixing Materials		
Determining Tank Capacity	9-1	61
Mixing Procedures	9-2	61
Section B—Calibrating Equipment		
The Importance of Calibration	9-3	61
Boom-Type Power Sprayers	9-4	62
Boom-Type Hand Sprayers.....	9-5	62
Single-Nozzle Hand Sprayers	9-6	63
Aerial Sprayers	9-7	63
Dry Granule Spreaders	9-8	63
Section C—Calculating Aquatic Herbicide Requirements		
Applications Based on Water Surface Area.....	9-9	64
Applications Based on Water Volume	9-10	64
Applications Based on Concentration.....	9-11	64
Applications in Flowing Water.....	9-12	64
Figures		Page
2-1 Factors Influencing Herbicide Application Rates	14	
2-2 Suggestions for Minimizing Drift Hazards.....	15	
2-3 Basic Precautions for Storing Herbicides	17	
6-1 Personnel Cost Factors for “Air Base Somewhere”	37	
6-2 Equipment Cost Factors for “Air Base Somewhere”	38	
6-3 Cost of Mowing Operations for “Air Base Somewhere”	41	
6-4 Cost of PGR Application for “Air Base Somewhere”	45	
6-5 Determining Cost Effectiveness for “Air Base Somewhere”	49	
Tables		
6-1 Mowing Requirements at Air Base Somewhere.....	35	
6-2 Effectiveness-Periods of PGRs on Grass	48	
6-3 Costs of Operations for “Air Base Somewhere”	50	
Attachments		
1. Glossary of Terms.....	67	
2. Cross Listing of Trade Names and Common Names	71	
3. Toxicity Ratings.....	73	

	Page
4. Chemical, Physical, and Biological Properties of Herbicides and Plant Growth Regulators	74
5. Weed Species and Herbicides for Their Control	102
6. Herbicides for Mixed Herbaceous Broadleaf and Grass Weeds	129
7. Herbicides for Herbaceous Broadleaf Weeds in Desirable Grasses	133
8. Herbicides for Weedy Grasses	135
9. Herbicides for Woody Plants	136
10. Herbicides for Weed Grasses in Turf	139
11. Herbicides for Broadleaf Weeds in Turf	141
12. Response of Lawn Weeds to Herbicides	143
13. Soil Persistence and Hazards of Herbicides to Desirable Plants	145
14. Preplanting Treatments To Control Weeds in Ornamental Plantings	146
15. Preemergence Treatments To Control Weeds in Ornamental Plantings	148
16. Postemergence Treatment To Control Weeds in Ornamental Plantings	152
17. Postemergence Herbicides To Control Grasses in Ornamental Plantings	154
18. Herbicides Registered for Use in Ground Covers	155
19. Herbicides Registered for Use in Annual and Perennial Flowers	156
20. Weight and Volume of Some Herbicides for Application in Small Areas	157
21. Plant Growth Regulators for Grass	158
22. Personnel Cost Factors (Document A)	160
23. Equipment Cost Factors (Document B)	161
24. Cost of Grounds Maintenance Operations (Document C)	162
25. Determination of Cost Effectiveness (Document D)	164
26. Herbicides for Use in Ponds, Lakes, and Reservoirs	165
27. Herbicides for Use in Drainage and Irrigation Canals	171
28. Herbicides for Use on Irrigation and Drainage Ditchbanks	172
29. Herbicides for Use in Reservoirs and Canals Carrying Potable Water	174
30. List of Equivalent Measures	175
31. Annotated References on Weed Control and Weed Identification	177